

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method of configuring network devices comprising:  
2 preparing a page for sending to a client process from a server, the page comprising a  
3 form having a plurality of input fields and a submit button;  
4 associating with the form one of a first submit method for obtaining information about  
5 a state of a particular network device, and a second submit method for  
6 changing the state of the particular network device;  
7 sending the page to the client process; and  
8 in response to activation of the submit button in the client process, executing routines  
9 to operate on the particular network device based on a submit method  
10 associated with the form.
  
- 1 2. A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein the form includes a hidden variable having a  
2 value for uniquely identifying the particular network device.
  
- 1 3. A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said executing routines to operate on the  
2 particular network device comprises,  
3 determining whether a first variable for data input associated with the first  
4 submit method is empty, and  
5 if it is determined that the first variable is not empty, then  
6 executing get routines to obtain information about the state of the  
7 particular network device, and  
8 assigning values for the plurality of input fields based on the  
9 information about the state of the particular network device;  
10 and  
11 wherein the method further comprises sending the page to the client process including  
12 the form with the second submit method after said assigning.

1    4.     A method as recited in Claim 3, wherein said executing routines to operate on the  
2     particular network device further comprising:

3         if it is determined that the first variable is empty, then:  
4             obtaining current values of the plurality of input fields from a second variable  
5                 associated with the second submit method; and  
6             executing set routines to change the state of the particular network device based on  
7                 the current values of the plurality of input fields.

1    5.     A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein:  
2         the first submit method is a form get method returning values of the plurality of input  
3                 fields in a first environmental variable; and  
4         the second submit method is a form post method returning values of the plurality of  
5                 input fields in a second environmental variable.

1    6.     A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein:  
2         the second submit method is a form get method returning values of the plurality of  
3                 input fields in a first environmental variable; and  
4         the first submit method is a form post method returning values of the plurality of input  
5                 fields in a second environmental variable.

1    7.     A method as recited in Claim 5, wherein the page is a Hypertext Markup Language  
2     (HTML) page; the first environmental variable is a “Request.QueryString”; and the second  
3     environmental variable is a Request.Form.

1    8.     A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the steps of preparing a page and executing  
2     routines are performed by a processor configured based on statements of a scripting language  
3     in a single script file.

1   9.    A method as recited in Claim 8, wherein the form further comprises a reference to the  
2   single script file associated with activation of the submit button.

1   10.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for  
2   configuring network devices, which instructions, when executed by one or more processors,  
3   cause the one or more processors to carry out the steps of:

4       preparing a page for sending to a client process from a server, the page comprising a  
5       form having a plurality of input fields and a submit button;  
6       associating with the form one of a first submit method for obtaining information about  
7       a state of a particular network device, and a second submit method for  
8       changing the state of the particular network device;  
9       sending the page to the client process; and  
10      in response to activation of the submit button in the client process, executing routines  
11       to operate on the particular network device based on a submit method  
12       associated with the form.

1   11.   A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 10, further comprising instructions  
2   which, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to  
3   carry out the steps of:

4       during said executing routines to operate on the particular network device,  
5       determining whether a first variable for data input associated with the first  
6       submit method is empty, and  
7       if it is determined that the first variable is not empty, then  
8       executing get routines to obtain information about the state of the  
9       particular network device, and  
10      assigning values for the plurality of input fields based on the  
11       information about the state of the particular network device;  
12       and  
13      sending the page to the client process including the form with the second submit  
14       method after said assigning.

- 1    12. A computer system for configuring network devices:  
2       a network interface; and  
3       one or more processors connected to the network interface, the one or more  
4       processors configured for  
5           preparing a page for sending to a client process from a server, the page  
6           comprising a form having a plurality of input fields and a submit  
7           button;  
8           associating with the form one of a first submit method for obtaining  
9           information about a state of a particular network device, and a second  
10          submit method for changing the state of the particular network device;  
11          sending the page to the client process; and  
12          in response to activation of the submit button in the client process, executing  
13           routines to operate on the particular network device based on a submit  
14           method associated with the form.
- 1    13. An apparatus for configuring network devices, the apparatus comprising:  
2       a means for preparing a page for sending to a client process from a server, the page  
3           comprising a form having a plurality of input fields and a submit button;  
4       a means for associating with the form one of a first submit method for obtaining  
5           information about a state of a particular network device, and a second submit  
6           method for changing the state of the particular network device;  
7       a means for sending the page to the client process; and  
8       a means for executing routines to operate on the particular network device, in  
9           response to activation of the submit button in the client process based on a  
10          submit method associated with the form.